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direction. The joining profiles 10 are manufactured in lengths exceeding the length of a floor board 1 and are cut to the desired length during the installation. It is possible to provide the joining profiles 10 in the form of rolls. The embodiments shown in the figures 2a-c will give a minimum of machining and loss of the costly decorative upper surface 3 during manufacturing. A decorative strip 20 is assembled from above, into the gap that is formed between two floor boards 1. The decorative strip 20 is provided with heels 21 at its lower part. The heels 21 are intended to interact with depressions 15 on the joining profile 10. The decorative strip 20 is furthermore provided with shoulders 22 which are intended to interact with edges 16 on the joining profile 10.

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The invention is not limited to the embodiments shown since these can be varied in different ways within the scope of the invention.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Fig. 2b with the attached substitute Fig. 2b (Attachment II).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows. A marked-up copy of each amended claim, showing the changes, is attached (Attachment III). For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of each pending claim is reproduced herewith.

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1. (Amended) Vertically joined flooring material comprising floor boards with a polygonal shaped upper surface, which floor boards are provided with edges, a groove, a lower side and a decorative top surface, whereby the floor boards are intended to be vertically joined by means of separate joining profiles, wherein at least one edge is provided with one groove, which groove is arranged parallel to its respective edge and that the joining profiles are provided with lips arranged in pairs, which lips each are intended to be received by the groove of a respective floor board so that adjacent floor boards with the grooves at the adjacent edges are guided and fixed horizontally by the lips of the joining profile, which lips are connected to each other by a middle section of the joining profile and that the joining profile is provided with a central cheek section which is comprised by a first and a second independently resilient cheek which cheeks are provided with one tongue each whereby the tongues are intended to be received by one groove each so that adjacent floor boards are guided in a vertical direction.

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2. (Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the groove is on the lower side and is arranged at a distance from the closest edge less than half of the width of a floor board.

3. (Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 2, wherein the floor boards are provided with a groove at the edges and that the distance between each groove and the closest edge is about the same.

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4. (Twice Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 2, wherein the part of the floor board located between each edge and its respective groove is thinner than the maximum thickness of the floor board by means of a recess located on the lower side.

5. (Twice Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the distance between the centers of the lips of the joining profile is less than the distance between the centers of the grooves placed on each side of and closest to the edge of two adjacent floor boards.

6. (Twice Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the joining profiles are manufactured in long sections which may be cut into a desired length exceeding the length of a floor board before being cut.

7. (Twice Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the joining profiles are partially coated with glue or adhesive tape.

8. (Twice Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein a decorative strip is positioned in an intentional gap formed between two floor boards.

9. (Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 8, wherein the decorative strip is provided with heels on its lower part to interact with corresponding depressions on the joining profile.

10. (Twice Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 8, wherein the decorative strip is provided with shoulders to rest against the upper edges of the joining profile.

Please add the following new claims:

11. Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the grooves on the lower side are arranged at a distance from the closest edge less than one quarter of the width of a floor board.

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12. Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the top surface of the floor board is flush with the top surface of an adjacent floor board, and the lower side of the floor board is flush with both the lower surface of the adjacent floor board and the joining profile.

13. Joining profile comprising:
two lips, disposed at opposite ends of and perpendicular to a middle section;
a central cheek section, said central cheek section comprising first and second independently resilient cheeks;

each of said first and second resilient cheeks comprising a tongue, extending perpendicular with respect to said respective cheek.

14. Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein said first and second resilient cheeks are separated by a space, said space large enough to permit deflection of one of said first and second resilient cheeks without contacting the other of said first and second resilient cheeks.

15. Joining profile according to claim 14, further comprising a decorative strip, disposed between said first and second resilient cheeks.

16. A method of joining flooring material, comprising:
providing a first and a second floor board, the floor boards comprising:
edges, the edges being provided with a first groove;
a lower side; and
a decorative top surface,
wherein each of the edges are provided with a second groove, arranged parallel to its respective edge;

providing a joining profile, the joining profile comprising:
lips, arranged in pairs, separated by a middle section; and

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a central cheek section, comprising first and second independently resilient cheeks, the first and second resilient cheeks each comprising a tongue;

vertically joining the first floor boards with the joining profile, by partially inserting one lip of the joining profile into the second groove of the floor board, while simultaneously deflecting one of the first and second resilient cheeks; and

fully seating the lip into the second groove, while simultaneously allowing the one of the first and second resilient cheeks to return to its non-deflected position.

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17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

vertically joining the second floor board with the joining profile, by partially inserting the other lip of the joining profile into the second groove of the second floor board, while simultaneously deflecting the other of the first and second resilient cheeks; and

fully seating the lip into the second groove, while simultaneously allow the other first and second resilient cheeks to return to its non-deflected position.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said fully seating of the second floor board causes the top surface of the first floor board to be flush with the top surface of the second floor board, and the lower side of the both first and second floor boards to be flush with the joining profile.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising inserting a decorative strip between the first and second resilient cheeks.

20. Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the upper surface of the floor boards have a shape selected from the group consisting of square, rhombus and rectangle.

AMENDMENT

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21. Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the floor boards are partially coated with glue.